

R E M A R K S

Claim 1 has been cancelled, to expedite prosecution but without prejudice to the scope of protection to which applicants are believed to be entitled.

Claims 4 and 6 (on which claim 7 is dependent) have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of now-cancelled claim 1 on which they were heretofore directly dependent. Thereby, the objection to otherwise-allowable claims 4, 6 and 7 as depending from a rejected claim has been overcome.

Claims 2, 3 and 5, heretofore dependent on rejected claim 1, have been made dependent on claim 4 and are believed to be allowable therewith.

New claims 15, 16, 17 and 18, respectively corresponding to original claims 2, 3, 4 and 5 but dependent on claim 6, have been added, and are believed to be allowable with claim 6.

Since this Amendment does not increase either the total number of claims or the number of independent claims beyond that previously paid for, no additional fee is necessary.

Claims 4 (independent), 2, 3 and 5 (all dependent on 4), 6 (independent), and 7 and 15 - 18 (all dependent on 6), are in the application. Both of claims 4 and 6 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (1) and any intervening claims (none) as has now been done.

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this Amendment will place the application in condition for immediate allowance. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable action, are accordingly courteously requested.

Respectfully,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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